THE LINE OF
DC
SUPER-STARS
ACTION COMICS
IN THIS ISSUE:
"THE MAN WHO TAPE-RECORDED The ATOM!"
STILL ONLY 20¢
ACTION COMICS
NO. 438
AUG.
30410
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
LOIS, WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU? WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL ME?
S-1769
A SUPER-THRILLER...
"A MONSTER NAMED LOIS LANE!"

SPARTA
Cover Title ACTION Comics Month 8/70
No. 438 Identification S-1769

THE LINE OF DC SUPER-STARS

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IN THIS ISSUE: The ATOM!"

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A SUPER-THRILLER...

"A MONSTER NAMED LOIS LANE!"

YELLOW TS
BLACK TS
RED TS
BLUE TS

KARATE

JUDO-JIU-JITSU-SAVATE

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- Learn all the vulnerable areas of the body — so that you can demolish anybody!
- Destroy any attacker in seconds, even two or three attackers at once!
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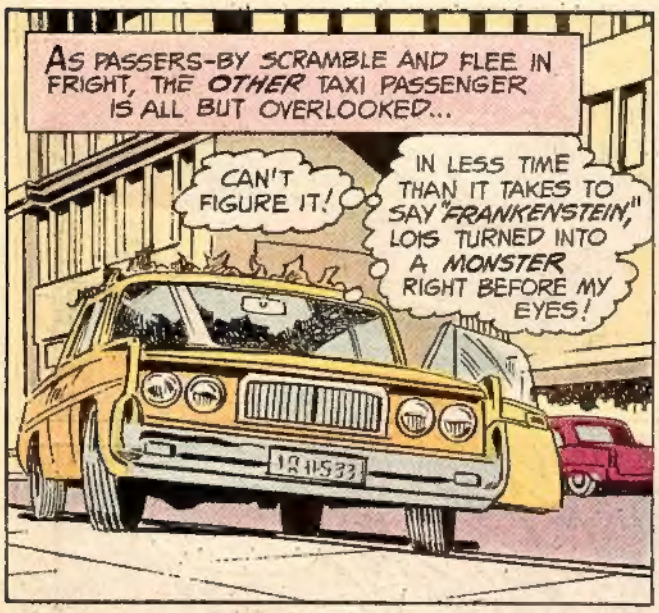
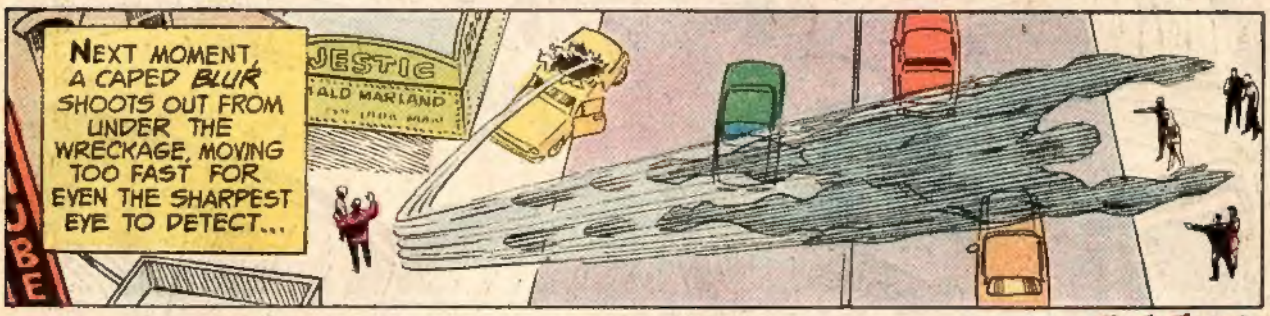
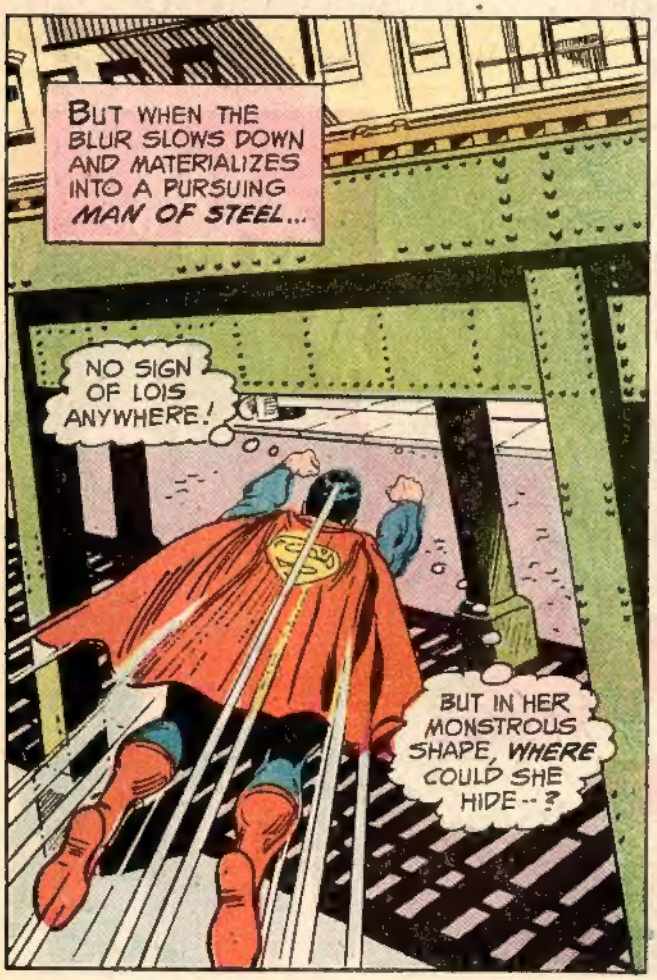
WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON IN METROPOLIS--AS USUAL, A STREAM OF TAXICABS FLOWS INTO THE THEATER DISTRICT CARRYING THE DAY'S MATINEE-GOERS...
AH-CHOOOOO!
BLESS YOU!
:PFFFZZBBBTTT:
IF IT WEREN'T FOR THIS PESKY HEAD-COLD, I'D BE COVERING THE METRO SNOW CARNIVAL!
CANCELING OUT WAS THE SENSIBLE THING TO DO, LOIS! YOUR RESISTANCE IS LOW!
THE MILD-MANNERED LOOKING FELLOW WITH THE GLASSES IS UNIQUE BECAUSE HE HAS A SECRET IDENTITY--AN ALTER EGO THAT MAKES HIM THE MIGHTIEST MAN ON EARTH!
I KNOW YOUR BIRTHDAY IS STILL A WEEK AWAY... BUT SINCE YOU'RE FEELING KIND OF DOWN TODAY--
CLARK! YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE--!
AND THE GIRL--IF YOU WANT TO FIND OUT WHY SHE IS UNIQUE, JUST KEEP AN EYE ON HER!...
IT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD, CLARK! WHERE DID YOU EVER PICK IT UP?
OH, I JUST KEPT MY EYES OPEN FOR SOMETHING... SUPER!
WORDS FAIL ME, CLARK! I'VE JUST GOT TO--
LOIS... PLEASE! THE CABBY MIGHT BE LOOKING IN HIS REAR-VIEW MIRROR!
SO WHAT? IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME!
2

H-HAPPENS ALL THE TIME--? N-NOT... THIS!
HELP!-- POLICE!
BETTER YET-- THE ARMY!
BELL CAB 741-3000
LOIS! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU?!
BELL CAB
WHEW! LOOK WHAT'S COMING OUT OF THAT TAXI!
I'VE SEEN ALL I CAN BEAR TO SEE! I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!
LOIS, DON'T PANIC! I'LL HELP YOU--!
ARRRGHHHH!
RRRRIIIPPP!
3


AS PASSERS-BY SCRAMBLE AND FLEE IN FRIGHT, THE OTHER TAXI PASSENGER IS ALL BUT OVERLOOKED...
CAN'T FIGURE IT!
IN LESS TIME THAN IT TAKES TO SAY "FRANKENSTEIN," LOIS TURNED INTO A MONSTER RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES!

NO WAY CLARK KENT CAN HELP HER NOW! THIS IS A JOB BETTER HANDLED BY SUPERMAN!


NEXT MOMENT, A CAPED BLUR SHOOTS OUT FROM UNDER THE WRECKAGE, MOVING TOO FAST FOR EVEN THE SHARPEST EYE TO DETECT...


BUT WHEN THE BLUR SLOWS DOWN AND MATERIALIZES INTO A PURSUING MAN OF STEEL...
NO SIGN OF LOIS ANYWHERE!
BUT IN HER MONSTROUS SHAPE, WHERE COULD SHE HIDE--?

CRASHHH!
I'VE FOUND HER--!
OR RATHER, LOIS HAS FOUND ME!
CONTINUED ON 5TH PAGE FOLLOWING.

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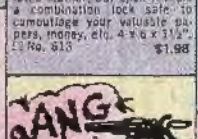
☐ No. 108 75¢

SNEEZING POWDER. Place a little of this powder on your hand, blow into the air, step back and watch the fun begin. Everyone in the room will begin to sneeze without knowing why. More fun than a barrel full of monkeys.
☐ No. 104 25¢ Each 5 for $1.00

ATOMIC JOY BUZZER. Wind it up and wear it like a ring. Shake hands and watch your friends JUMP! Place it on a chair and they will HIT the ceiling when they sit on it.
☐ No. 114 75¢

IT'S 10 INSTRUMENTS IN ONE. Every hobbyist, camper, sports fan, hunter, scout, will want one. You get all the following in this little (only 3½" when folded) wonder! 1 — Reading lens, 2 — Compound microscope, 3 — Adjustable telescope, 4—Focusing binoculars, 5 — Directional compass, 6 — Solar time clock, 7—Flat mirror, 8—Magnifying mirror, 9—Fire lighter, 10 — Code transmitter.
☐ No. 776 $2.00



ATOM PISTOL. Fires real blanks with the roar of a full-size gun. Minutely detailed replica of an 18th century dueling pistol. About the size of half-dollar yet barrel opens to load, hammer cocks and fires when trigger is pulled. Ramrod and ammunition included. Makes a great conversation piece that you will be proud to own.
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☐ No. 135A Extra Ammo 25¢

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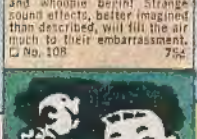

SNOWSTORM TABLETS. Create a miniature snowstorm indoors. Will actually cover a whole room. Watch the fun start when you place one of these almost invisible tablets on the burning end of a cigarette. Watch them run for the snow shovel.
☐ No. 106 25¢ pkg. 5 pkgs. $1.00

POTATO GUN. Here's a new, fast action gun, that shoots potato pellets as far as 50 ft. with more than 300 shots from a single potato. Absolutely harmless . . . and you never run out of ammo.
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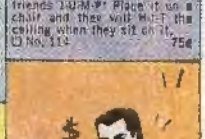

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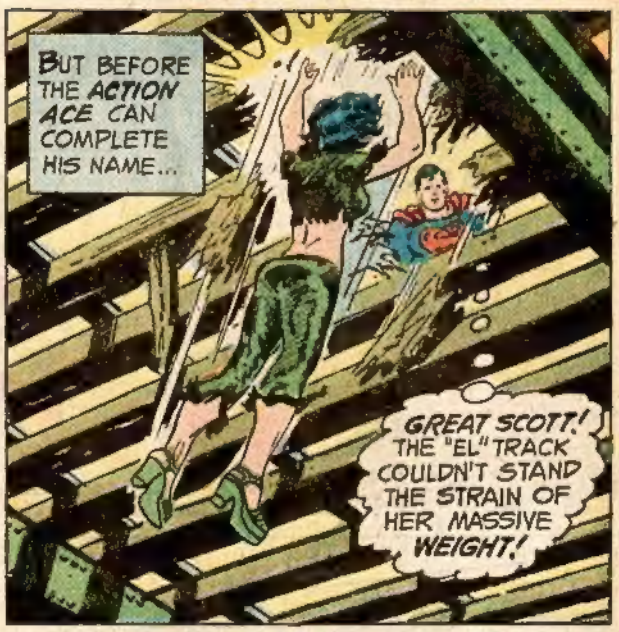
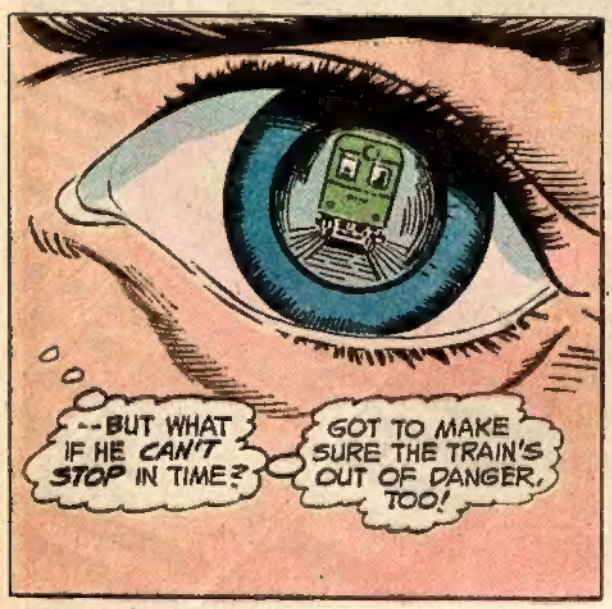
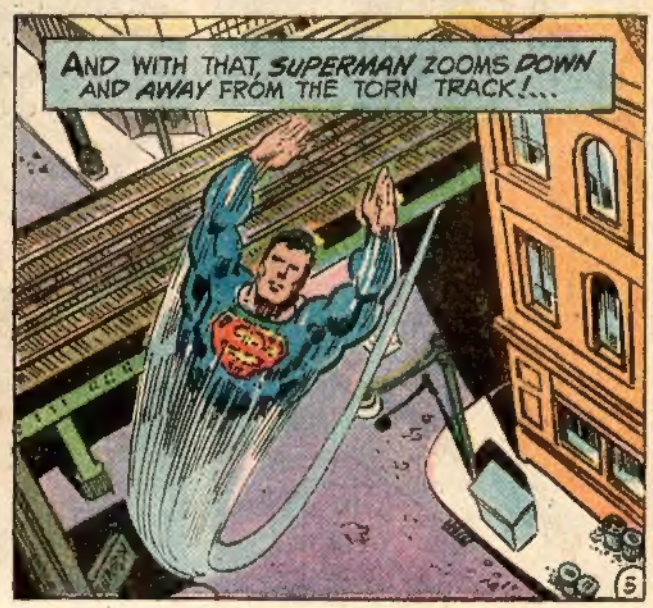
URRGHHH!
LOIS! IT'S ME-- YOUR FRIEND, SUPER--

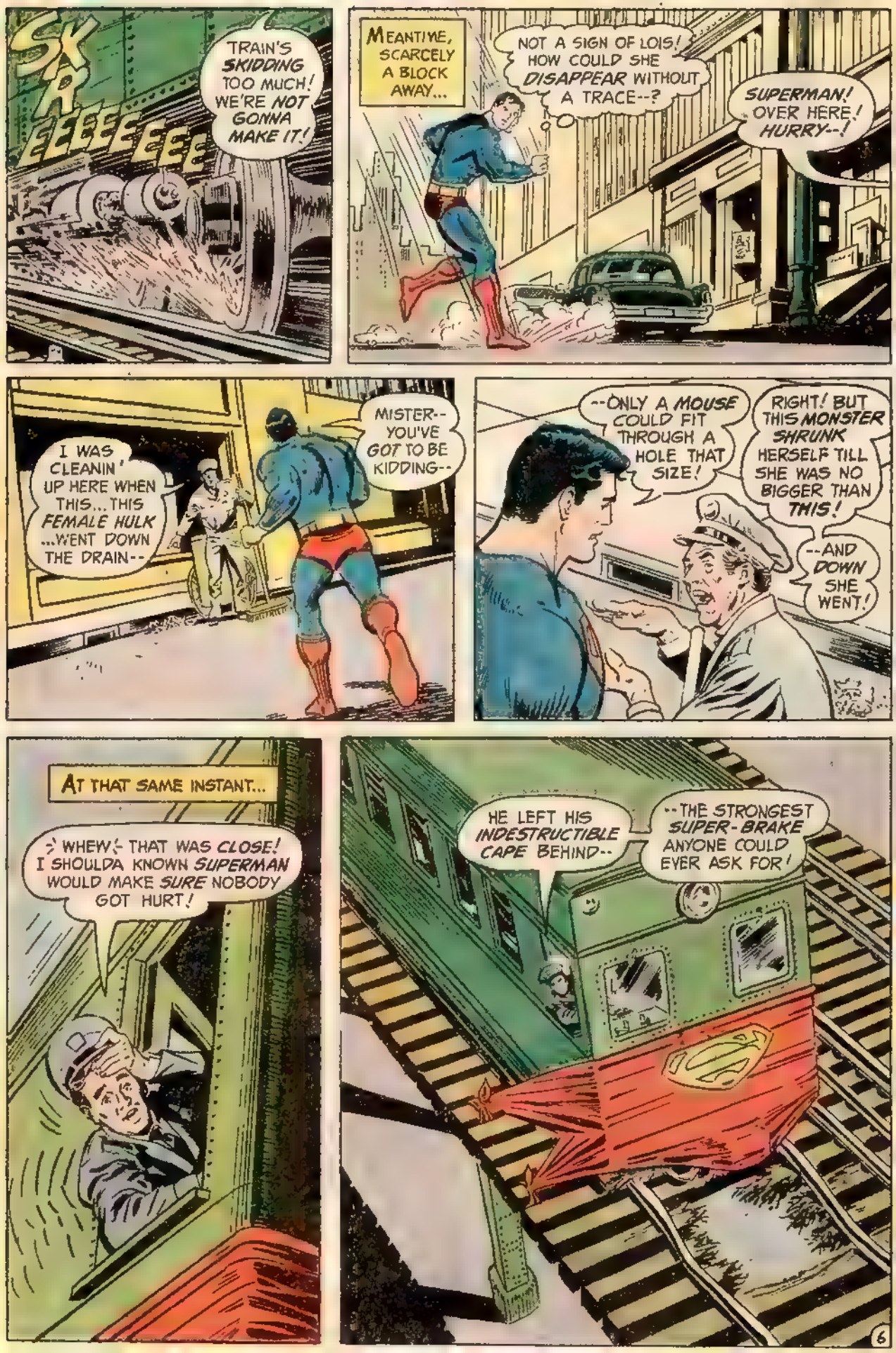

BUT BEFORE THE ACTION ACE CAN COMPLETE HIS NAME...
GREAT SCOTT! THE "EL" TRACK COULDN'T STAND THE STRAIN OF HER MASSIVE WEIGHT!

AND THEN A BLARING HORN ERUPTS BEHIND SUPERMAN'S BACK...
ROOO-ROOO!
OF ALL TIMES--A TRAIN BARRELING DOWN ON ME!

EVERY SECOND I REMAIN UP HERE, LOIS GETS FURTHER AWAY! I'D HATE TO LET HER SLIP AWAY FROM ME AGAIN--!
UH-OH! THE ENGINEER'S STARTING TO BRAKE--
RROOO ROOOO


--BUT WHAT IF HE CAN'T STOP IN TIME?
GOT TO MAKE SURE THE TRAIN'S OUT OF DANGER, TOO!


AND WITH THAT, SUPERMAN ZOOMS DOWN AND AWAY FROM THE TORN TRACK!...
5


SKREEEEEEE
TRAIN'S SKIDDING TOO MUCH! WE'RE NOT GONNA MAKE IT!
MEANTIME, SCARCELY A BLOCK AWAY...
NOT A SIGN OF LOIS! HOW COULD SHE DISAPPEAR WITHOUT A TRACE--?
SUPERMAN! OVER HERE! HURRY--!
I WAS CLEANIN' UP HERE WHEN THIS... THIS FEMALE HULK ...WENT DOWN THE DRAIN--
MISTER-- YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING--
--ONLY A MOUSE COULD FIT THROUGH A HOLE THAT SIZE!
RIGHT! BUT THIS MONSTER SHRUNK HERSELF TILL SHE WAS NO BIGGER THAN THIS!
--AND DOWN SHE WENT!
AT THAT SAME INSTANT...
WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE! I SHOULDA KNOWN SUPERMAN WOULD MAKE SURE NOBODY GOT HURT!
HE LEFT HIS INDESTRUCTIBLE CAPE BEHIND--
--THE STRONGEST SUPER-BRAKE ANYONE COULD EVER ASK FOR!
6

NINE O'CLOCK NEXT MORNING--AFTER A NIGHT-LONG SEARCH...
EIGHT HOURS OF PATROLLING AND X-RAY SCANNING THE CITY... AND NO TRACE OF LOIS ANYWHERE!
NOTHING SUPERMAN CAN DO NOW... BUT GO BACK TO WORK AS CLARK KENT!
WITH THAT INCREDIBLE SHRINKING POWER SHE'S ACQUIRED, LOIS CAN DUCK INTO THE SMALLEST HOLE OR CREVICE!
IF SHE'S DETERMINED TO KEEP HERSELF HIDDEN, IT'D BE NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND --
WAITAMINNIT! I'M BEING WATCHED-- I CAN SENSE IT!
THAT HAND! IT'S LOIS--!
TOO LATE-- SHE SHRUNK OUT OF SIGHT SOMEWHERE... BELOW!
NOT EVEN MY MICROSCOPIC VISION COULD COMB EVERY SQUARE INCH IN TIME TO SPOT HER!
I WONDER... MY OFFICE IS JUST A FEW WINDOWS AWAY... COULD IT BE LOIS CAME TO ME FOR HELP?
IS HER HUMAN HALF FIGHTING TO GET THROUGH TO ME?
7

HEY...LOIS LOOKING IN ON ME FROM THAT OUTSIDE LEDGE--! SHE MUST'VE GOT AN EYEFUL OF SUPERMAN SWITCHING TO CLARK!
YESTERDAY SHE BECOMES A MONSTER--TODAY SHE FINDS OUT MY SECRET IDENTITY!
WHAT ELSE COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG?
HI THERE, CLARK BABY!
OH, NO! NOT HER--! THE GOSSIP QUEEN OF METROPOLIS!
UH... WHAT'S NEW, LOLA?
JUST THE HOTTEST STORY OF THE YEAR--AS YOU'LL HEAR ON MY TELECAST TONIGHT!
BY THE BY, CLARK... I HAVEN'T SEEN LOIS AROUND! DIDN'T YOU TWO TAKE IN A MATINEE YESTERDAY?
ER, AS A MATTER OF FACT, WE DID--
--BUT AFTER THE SHOW, HER COLD GOT SO BAD, SHE SAID SHE'D STAY HOME TODAY...
OHH, REALLY? SO HOW COME SHE HASN'T ANSWERED HER PHONE THE FOUR TIMES I'VE CALLED?
CURIOUS, ISN'T IT--HOW LOIS BECOMES A NO-SHOW ...JUST WHEN THIS FEMALE FREAK SHOWS UP!
TA-TA, CLARK BABY!
HMM... LOLA DIDN'T BUY A WORD OF MY COVER STORY!
IF THAT TATTLER STARTS WAGGING HER "TALE" THAT LOIS IS THE MONSTER...
...BY TOMORROW MORNING IT'LL BE THE TALK OF THE TOWN!
CONTINUED ON 5TH PAGE FOLLOWING.
8

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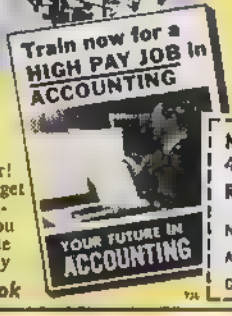

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ALONE IN HIS OFFICE, THE REPORTER SUPER-SPEED TYPES HIS WAY THROUGH A PILE OF ASSIGNMENTS...
I HAVE A TERRIBLE FEELING WHAT'S HAPPENED TO LOIS IS MY FAULT!
THAT NECKLACE I GAVE HER... IT WAS SOMETHING I PICKED UP IN THE ANDROMEDA CONSTELLATION ON A RECENT SPACE-MISSION!
THOUGH I CAREFULLY CHECKED IT OUT AS HARMLESS BEFORE BRINGING IT TO EARTH--
--IT MUST HAVE AN UNFAMILIAR ELEMENT THAT MAKES IT DANGEROUS TO EARTH-PEOPLE!
THE NECKLACE-- LOIS FLUNG IT AWAY JUST AS SHE STARTED TURNING MONSTROUS!
IT'S THE ONLY CLUE I HAVE! I'VE GOT TO FIND IT!
OOOPS! I'VE ALSO GOT TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO MY TYPING!
THAT'S THE THIRD MACHINE I'VE MELTED DOWN THIS YEAR!
AS CLARK HEADS FOR THE SPECIAL STOREROOM WHERE HE MAKES HIS COSTUME CHANGE...
UH-OH! THAT MAN IN LOIS'S OFFICE-- HE'S THE TAXI DRIVER WHO SAW WHAT HAPPENED TO LOIS!
THAT'S THE FINAL PROOF SHE NEEDS TO EXPOSE LOIS AS THE MONSTER!
I'D BETTER FIND LOIS BEFORE TONIGHT'S BROADCAST--OR A PANIC-STRICKEN CITY WILL START HUNTING HER DOWN!

ALONE IN HIS OFFICE, THE REPORTER SUPER-SPEED TYPES HIS WAY THROUGH A PILE OF ASSIGNMENTS...
I HAVE A TERRIBLE FEELING WHAT'S HAPPENED TO LOIS IS MY FAULT!
THAT NECKLACE I GAVE HER... IT WAS SOMETHING I PICKED UP IN THE ANDROMEDA CONSTELLATION ON A RECENT SPACE-MISSION!
THOUGH I CAREFULLY CHECKED IT OUT AS HARMLESS BEFORE BRINGING IT TO EARTH--
--IT MUST HAVE AN UNFAMILIAR ELEMENT THAT MAKES IT DANGEROUS TO EARTH-PEOPLE!
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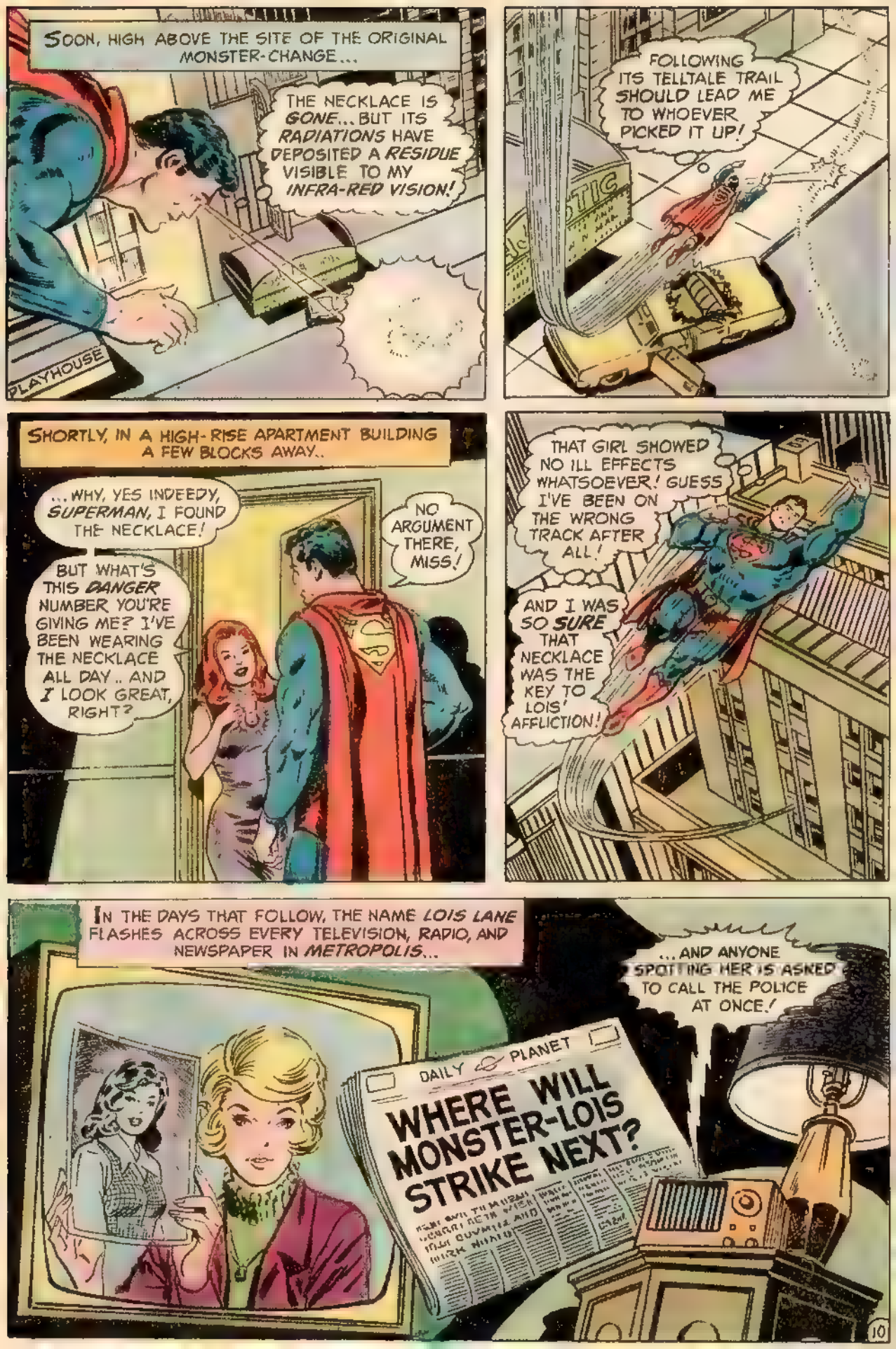
9


SOON, HIGH ABOVE THE SITE OF THE ORIGINAL MONSTER-CHANGE...
THE NECKLACE IS GONE... BUT ITS RADIATIONS HAVE DEPOSITED A RESIDUE VISIBLE TO MY INFRA-RED VISION!
PLAYHOUSE
FOLLOWING ITS TELLTALE TRAIL SHOULD LEAD ME TO WHOEVER PICKED IT UP!
SHORTLY, IN A HIGH-RISE APARTMENT BUILDING A FEW BLOCKS AWAY..
...WHY, YES INDEEDY, SUPERMAN, I FOUND THE NECKLACE!
BUT WHAT'S THIS DANGER NUMBER YOU'RE GIVING ME? I'VE BEEN WEARING THE NECKLACE ALL DAY.. AND I LOOK GREAT, RIGHT?
NO ARGUMENT THERE, MISS!
THAT GIRL SHOWED NO ILL EFFECTS WHATSOEVER! GUESS I'VE BEEN ON THE WRONG TRACK AFTER ALL!
AND I WAS SO SURE THAT NECKLACE WAS THE KEY TO LOIS' AFFLICTION!
IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, THE NAME LOIS LANE FLASHES ACROSS EVERY TELEVISION, RADIO, AND NEWSPAPER IN METROPOLIS...
...AND ANYONE SPOTTING HER IS ASKED TO CALL THE POLICE AT ONCE!
DAILY PLANET
WHERE WILL MONSTER-LOIS STRIKE NEXT?

YET FOR DAYS, THERE IS NO TRACE OF THE MONSTROUS LOIS! NOT ONE OF THE CITY'S EIGHT MILLION PEOPLE COMES ACROSS HER MISSHAPEN FORM...
--NOT EVEN HER MILD-MANNERED FRIEND...
THIS EVENING, CLARK LOOKS ESPECIALLY GRIM--FOR HE HAS BEEN WEIGHTED DOWN BY A TORTUROUS PROBLEM ALL HIS OWN...
RECORDING... 1...2...3!
BEGINNING DAILY REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF MY CONDITION!
CLICK
IT'S BEEN TWO DAYS SINCE THE FIRST SYMPTOMS APPEARED...
...BUT NOW IT'S NO LONGER PRACTICAL FOR ME TO DISGUISE THE TRUTH!
I CAN'T GO ON WEARING MY PLASTIC-FLESH GLOVES--
--THE WIG--
--THE LIFE-LIKE FACE-MASK--
EVERY HOUR MY CONDITION GROWS WORSE! I'LL HAVE TO ABANDON MY SECRET IDENTITY!
NOW I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW POOR LOIS MUST FEEL--
--FOR I, TOO, HAVE BEEN PLAGUED WITH THE SAME AFFLICTION WHICH STRUCK HER!
AND NOW MY MIND IS STARTING TO GO... I'M GROWING SAVAGE ...BEAST-LIKE...
FEROCIOUSLY, THE MAN OF TOMORROW DISCARDS HIS SHREDDED CLARK KENT GARB--AND LEAPS LIKE A WILD ANIMAL INTO THE NIGHT--
ARRGHHHHH!
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING
11

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60	☐	G.I. COMBAT
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62	☐	OUR FIGHTING FORCES
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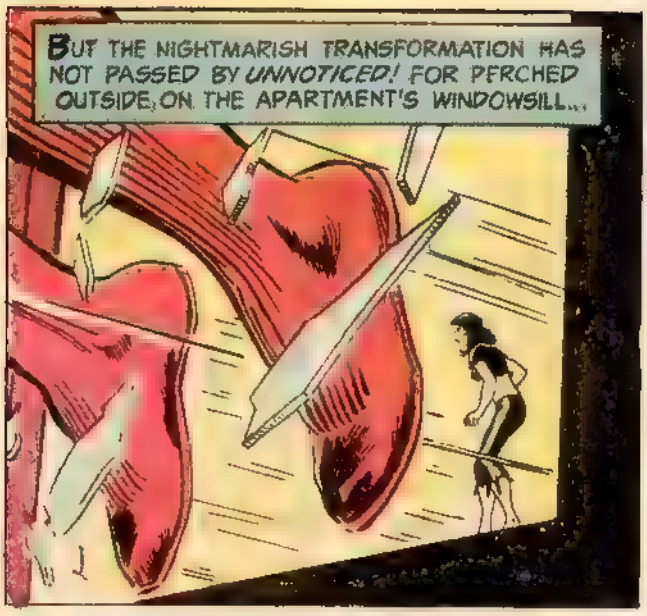
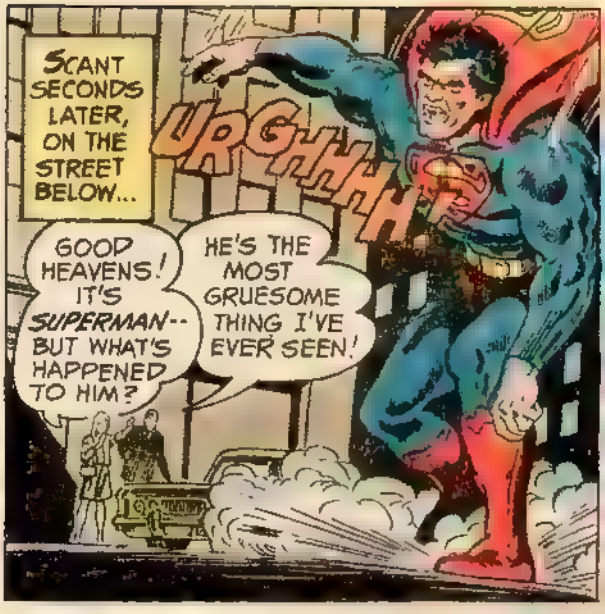
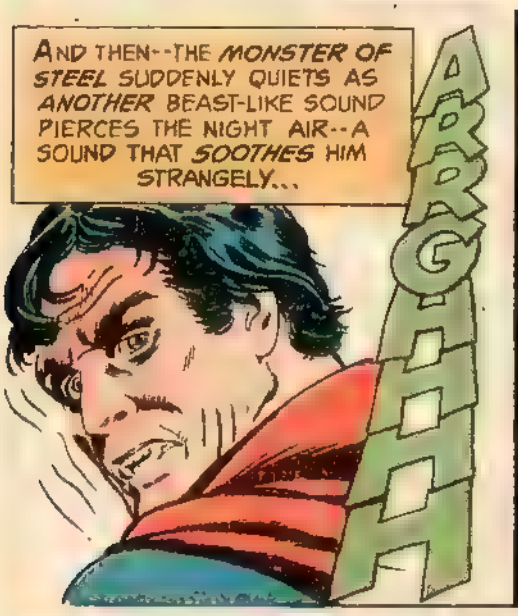
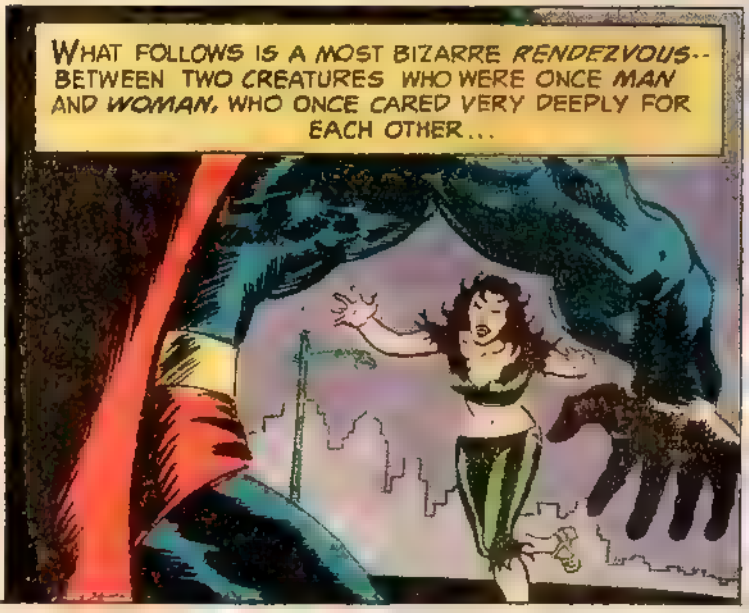
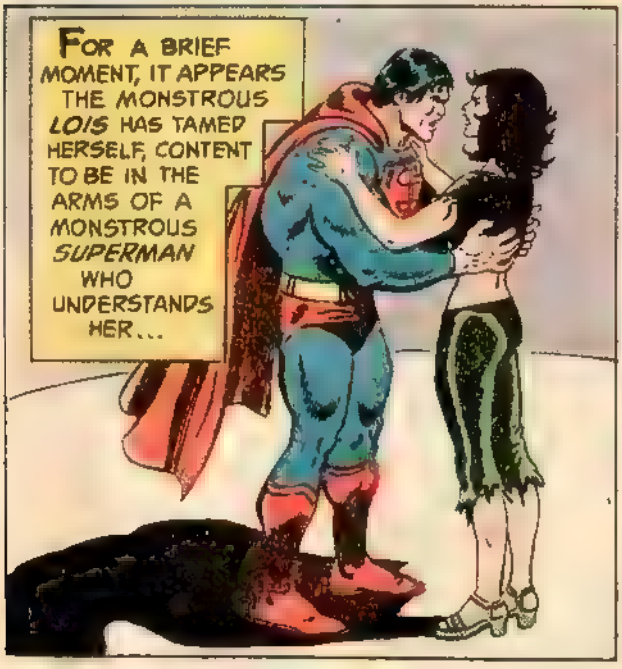

BUT THE NIGHTMARISH TRANSFORMATION HAS NOT PASSED BY UNNOTICED! FOR PERCHED OUTSIDE ON THE APARTMENT'S WINDOWSILL...


SCANT SECONDS LATER, ON THE STREET BELOW...
URGHHHH
GOOD HEAVENS! IT'S SUPERMAN-- BUT WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM?
HE'S THE MOST GRUESOME THING I'VE EVER SEEN!


AND THEN--THE MONSTER OF STEEL SUDDENLY QUIETS AS ANOTHER BEAST-LIKE SOUND PIERCES THE NIGHT AIR--A SOUND THAT SOOTHES HIM STRANGELY...
ARRGHHH


WHAT FOLLOWS IS A MOST BIZARRE RENDEZVOUS-- BETWEEN TWO CREATURES WHO WERE ONCE MAN AND WOMAN, WHO ONCE CARED VERY DEEPLY FOR EACH OTHER...


FOR A BRIEF MOMENT, IT APPEARS THE MONSTROUS LOIS HAS TAMED HERSELF, CONTENT TO BE IN THE ARMS OF A MONSTROUS SUPERMAN WHO UNDERSTANDS HER...

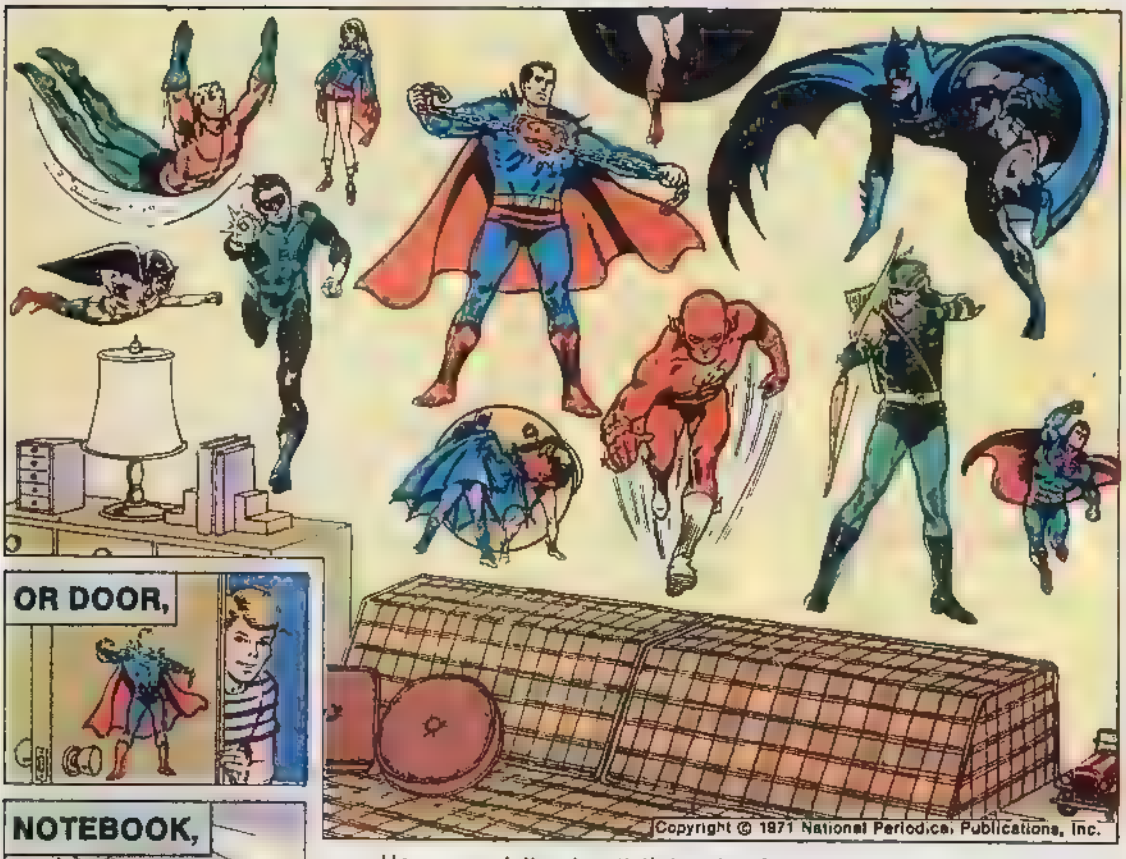
UNTIL THE UNPREDICTABLE HAND OF FATE STEPS IN...
AAAHHH--?!?
UH-OH!
RRRIPPPP!

LOIS HAS SEEN THROUGH MY DISGUISE--SHE REALIZES MY "TRANSFORMATION" WAS A HOAX TO LURE HER OUT IN THE OPEN!
IF SHE CAME TO CLARK FOR HELP ONCE--I FIGURED SHE MIGHT AGAIN!
KNOWING SHE MIGHT BE SECRETLY WATCHING MY APARTMENT, I PRETENDED TO BE DEVELOPING MONSTER-SYMPTOMS LIKE HERS!
THWACCKK!
BETTER GO AHEAD WITH PHASE TWO OF MY PLAN, WHILE LOIS IS STILL FUMING--
--BEFORE SHE DECIDES TO SHRINK OUT OF SIGHT AGAIN!
THAT LOOK OF RAGE IN HER EYES --SHE'D KILL ME IF SHE COULD!
BUT TO ME...THIS CREATURE IS STILL LOIS! I CAN'T RAISE A HAND AGAINST HER--
--BUT I CAN RAISE A HAND TO CURE HER!

THOUGH THE RAY-BEAM LASTS ONLY A BRIEF INSTANT, ITS EFFECTS ARE SUDDEN AND DRAMATIC!
W-WHERE AM I...?
L-LAST THING I REMEMBER:.. CLARK GIVING ME A NECKLACE IN A TAXI...
;WHEW! GLAD TO HEAR MY SECRET IDENTITY'S A SECRET AGAIN!
HOLD ME, SUPERMAN... I'M SO FRIGHTENED.. I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME...
LUCKILY, I DO KNOW! I FINALLY FIGURED OUT THAT THE ANDROMEDAN NECKLACE WAS ONE OF THE CULPRITS--
--AND LOIS'S COLD WAS THE OTHER!
IF SHE HAD BEEN IN GOOD HEALTH, LIKE THAT OTHER GIRL, THE NECKLACE'S RADIATION WOULDN'T HAVE AFFECTED HER AT ALL!
BUT LOIS'S WEAKENED RESISTANCE RESULTED IN THE FREAK REACTION THAT MONSTERIZED HER AND ENABLED HER TO SHRINK AT WILL!
SO I USED MY KNOWLEDGE OF ADVANCED KRYPTONIAN SCIENCE TO DEVISE THIS MINIATURE COLD-CURER!
SOON AS LOIS WAS HEALTHY AGAIN, THE NECKLACE'S SIDE-EFFECTS WERE CANCELED OUT!
THE END
COMING SUPER-ATTRACTIONS!
AHOY, MATES! IT'S ME... CAPTAIN STRONG! LAST TIME I MET UP WITH SUPERMAN, YOU GAVE ME SUCH A GREAT RECEPTION, I'M COMIN' BACK IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF ACTION COMICS #439, SEPTEMBER, 1974. IT'S A STORY CALLED "TOO BIG TO LIVE!" AND IN IT, YOU'LL MEET MY GIRL FRIEND!
Also-- AN ACTION-PLUS TALE:
THE ATOM FINDS "DANGER IN TWO DIMENSIONS!"
ON SALE THE LAST WEEK IN JUNE!
14

SUPER-HERO STICK-ONS!

Stick your favorites up against the wall...



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The MUSCLE FIGHTER IV *directors insist that there is no overnight method which can build huge muscles instantly. Gaining muscle size, firming up the body, and increasing strength all takes time and effort - But you as a man who may fit the requirements you may do it!*

This company does not claim that you can build a fantastic body in seven days, or seven weeks. This is a three month course! And it will certainly take considerably longer than that to build a fantastic body like Robert Nailon's shown here! He has been training for a number of years

Mr. Nailon has been training several years.

Sirs, my improvement has been great. What a course!
D H TUSHING, N.Y.

Dear Sir, I cannot believe the way I feel. This program has really opened my eyes.
TOM KLEIN N.J.

Dear friends, MUSCLE FIGHTER IV did it. I will always be appreciative. Thanks a million.
RICK THOMPSON L.A. CA.

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TOM R TORONTO ONT.

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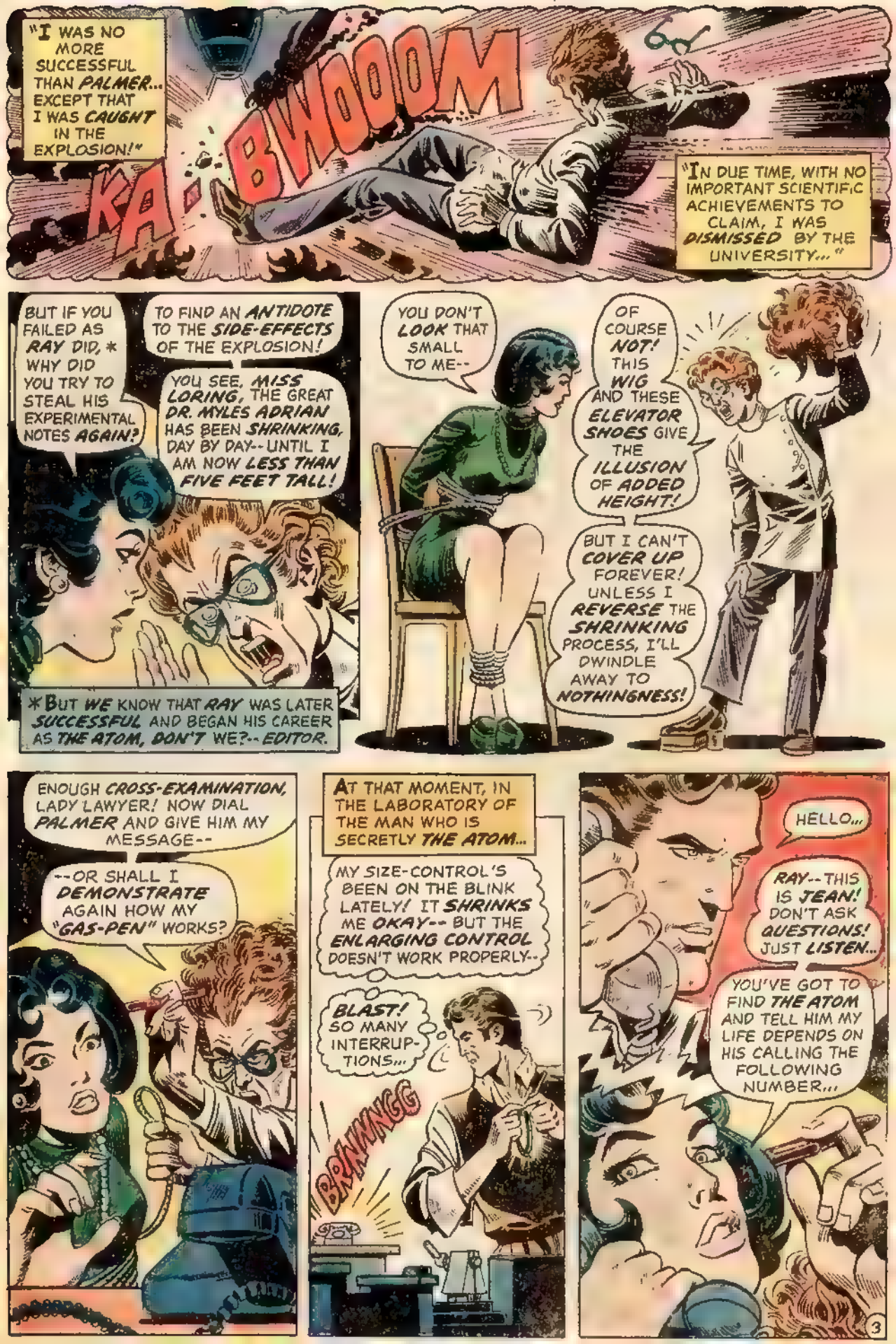
CAST YOUR EYES ON A MAN WHO BELIEVES HE HAS GOOD REASON TO LOATHE THE LILLIPUTIAN LAWMAN KNOWN AS...
The ATOM
YOU CANNOT ESCAPE FROM MY TRAP, ATOM! TELL ME YOUR SIZE-CHANGING SECRET-- AND YOU'LL LIVE!
REFUSE-- AND THIS CASSETTE TAPE GETS ERASED ALONG WITH THE ATOM!
ACME RECORDING TAPE
BUT "GOOD" REASONS SOMETIMES HAVE A WAY OF TURNING OUT "BAD"! WATCH CAREFULLY-- THERE ARE UNEXPECTED TWISTS THAT EVEN THE TINY TITAN CAN'T ANTICIPATE IN HIS DEADLY DUEL WITH--
"THE MAN WHO TAPE-RECORDED THE ATOM!"
STORY BY: MARTIN PASKO
ART BY: DICK DILLIN & TEX BLAISDELL
EDITED BY: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

YOU ARE LOOKING IN ON A ROOM ON THE IVY UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, WHERE THE PLAN TO TRAP THE WORLD'S SMALLEST SUPER-HERO IS ABOUT TO BE SPRUNG!...
STOP POINTING THAT PHONY FOUNTAIN PEN AT ME, YOU LUNATIC! IT MIGHT GO OFF!
YOU ALREADY KNOCKED ME OUT WITH IT SO YOU COULD BRING ME HERE! NOW PUT IT AWAY AND START EXPLAINING!
S-1774

I HARDLY THINK YOU'RE IN A POSITION TO GIVE ME ORDERS, MISS LORING! NEVERTHELESS, I SHALL EXPLAIN--
YOU ARE GOING TO LURE THE ATOM HERE! HE POSSESSES SOMETHING I MUST HAVE FOR MYSELF!
AND WHAT COULD THAT BE?

"A SECRET-- HIS SECRET OF SIZE-CONTROL! I WOULD HAVE HAD IT BY NOW, BUT FOR HIS BLASTED INTERFERENCE!"
--SO I'M PUTTING THIS BADDIE DOWN!
BAFF
ULGGHH!
I'M NOT LETTING A PIP-SQUEAK ATOM STOP ME--
RAY PALMER'S NOTES ON HIS MATTER-SHRINKING EXPERIMENTS ARE TOP-SECRET... LOCKED AWAY HERE FOR SAFEKEEPING! I'VE GOT TO TAKE--
FIGURED WHEN I SPOTTED A FLASHLIGHT IN THE PHYSICS LIBRARY AFTER HOURS IT WAS SOMEONE WHO'S UP TO NO GOOD--
-- FROM SAVING MY LIFE!
UNNGHH!
WHOKK
"BECAUSE OF THE ATOM'S UNTIMELY INTERRUPTION, I HAD TO DASH OFF-- WITHOUT THE DOCUMENTS I SO DESPERATELY SOUGHT!"
BUT, IN A WAY, I'M GRATEFUL TO THE LITTLE BUGGER!
HE MADE ME REALIZE THAT WHILE IT WAS PALMER'S NOTES THAT GOT ME INTO THIS PREDICAMENT...
...THE ATOM HAD THE ANSWERS I NEED TO GET OUT OF IT!
"I WAS ONCE A TOP-RATED PHYSICIST-- BUT WHEN I STARTED TO SLIP..."
PALMER'S BEEN ATTEMPTING TO SHRINK MATTER WITH ULTRA-VIOLET RAYS-- BUT THE OBJECTS EXPLODE ON SHRINKING!
IF I CAN SOLVE THE PROBLEM FIRST, I'LL CLAIM THE DISCOVERY AS MY OWN--AND BE APPROVED FOR TENURE AT IVY U!
2


"I WAS NO MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN PALMER... EXCEPT THAT I WAS CAUGHT IN THE EXPLOSION!"
KA-BWOOOM
"IN DUE TIME, WITH NO IMPORTANT SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS TO CLAIM, I WAS DISMISSED BY THE UNIVERSITY..."
BUT IF YOU FAILED AS RAY DID, * WHY DID YOU TRY TO STEAL HIS EXPERIMENTAL NOTES AGAIN?
TO FIND AN ANTIDOTE TO THE SIDE-EFFECTS OF THE EXPLOSION!
YOU SEE, MISS LORING, THE GREAT DR. MYLES ADRIAN HAS BEEN SHRINKING, DAY BY DAY--UNTIL I AM NOW LESS THAN FIVE FEET TALL!
*BUT WE KNOW THAT RAY WAS LATER SUCCESSFUL AND BEGAN HIS CAREER AS THE ATOM, DON'T WE?--EDITOR.
YOU DON'T LOOK THAT SMALL TO ME--
OF COURSE NOT! THIS WIG AND THESE ELEVATOR SHOES GIVE THE ILLUSION OF ADDED HEIGHT!
BUT I CAN'T COVER UP FOREVER! UNLESS I REVERSE THE SHRINKING PROCESS, I'LL DWINDLE AWAY TO NOTHINGNESS!
ENOUGH CROSS-EXAMINATION, LADY LAWYER! NOW DIAL PALMER AND GIVE HIM MY MESSAGE--
--OR SHALL I DEMONSTRATE AGAIN HOW MY "GAS-PEN" WORKS?
AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE LABORATORY OF THE MAN WHO IS SECRETLY THE ATOM...
MY SIZE-CONTROL'S BEEN ON THE BLINK LATELY! IT SHRINKS ME OKAY--BUT THE ENLARGING CONTROL DOESN'T WORK PROPERLY--
BLAST! SO MANY INTERRUPTIONS...
BRRNNGG
HELLO...
RAY--THIS IS JEAN! DON'T ASK QUESTIONS! JUST LISTEN...
YOU'VE GOT TO FIND THE ATOM AND TELL HIM MY LIFE DEPENDS ON HIS CALLING THE FOLLOWING NUMBER...
3

AND AFTER THE FRANTIC CALL IS COMPLETED...
I WAS HOPING THE ATOM WOULDN'T BE NEEDED...
...UNTIL THE CONTROLS IN MY BELT HAD BEEN FIXED!
BUT I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO WING IT!
A FEW TURNS OF THE TELEPHONE DIAL LATER...
WHEN JEAN PICKS UP THE PHONE, THE SOUNDS FROM THE RADIO WILL PROPEL ME THROUGH THE TELEPHONE WIRE--
EH?
ATOM! HELP ME!
COME HERE AT ONCE, OR I'LL BE KILLED!
SWEET DREAMS, MISS LORING! I WANT YOU OUT OF THE WAY FOR WHAT HAPPENS NEXT!
ATOM WON'T REALIZE YOUR PLEADING VOICE WAS PRE-RECORDED ON MY AUTOMATIC ANSWERING MACHINE TILL IT'S TOO LATE!
:UNNHH:
BEEEEP
AND TOO LATE IT MAY ALREADY BE, AS THE TINY TITAN TRAVELS AT TELEPHONIC SPEED TOWARD THE SOUND OF JEAN'S RECORDED VOICE...
BEEEEEEEP
SHOULD BE REACHING THE END OF THE LINE BY NOW--
--WHAT'S THAT ODD SOUND? IT'S LIKE---
BEEEEP
-- LIKE THE TONE THAT SIGNALS A TELEPHONE ANSWERING-DEVICE IS RECORDING A CALLER'S MESSAGE!
GREAT SCOTT! I-- I'M GOING TO BE TAPED LIKE A PERSON'S VOICE!
BODY... TINGLING! VISION... A BROWN BLUR! CAN'T MOVE!
I'M TRAPPED ON... THE TAPE! GOTTA ENLARGE TO GET OUT...
NO DICE!... MY CONTROLS... WON'T WORK!
ATOM! CAN YOU HEAR ME?
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING
4

WIPE-OUT 2 OR MORE ATTACKERS AT ONCE...

WITH JOE WEIDER'S DEADLY SELF-DEFENSE SYSTEM!

ARM YOURSELF WITH INSTANT "DEFENSE POWER" FOR ANY TOUGH SITUATION!

Yes, No Man!

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IN THIS "TIGHT SPOT"?

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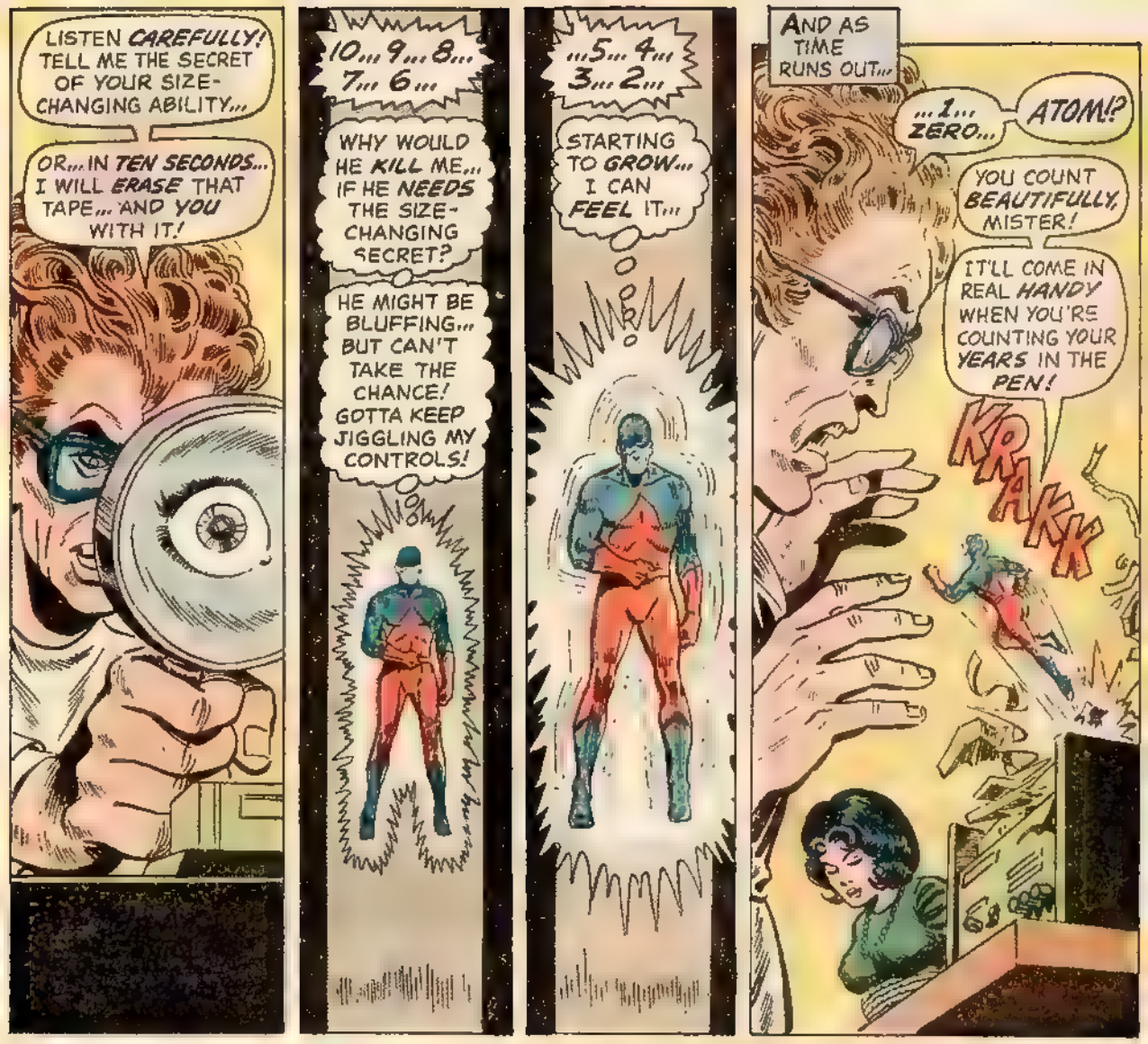
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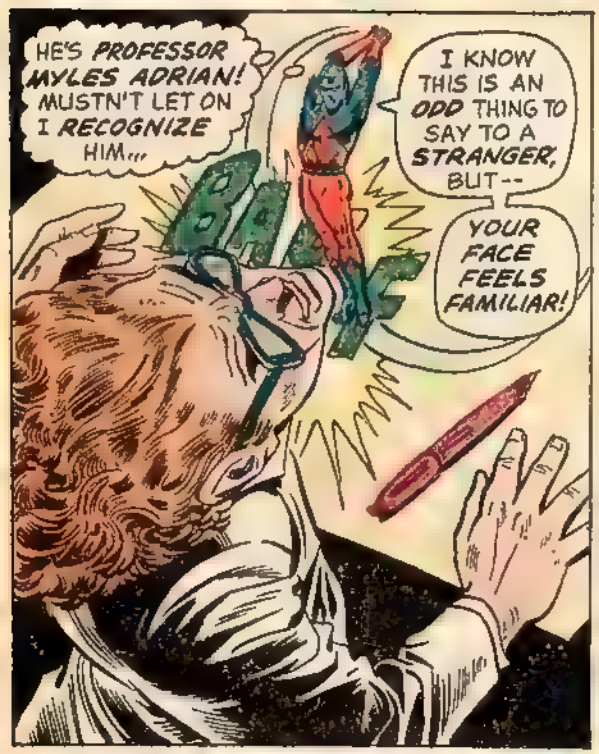
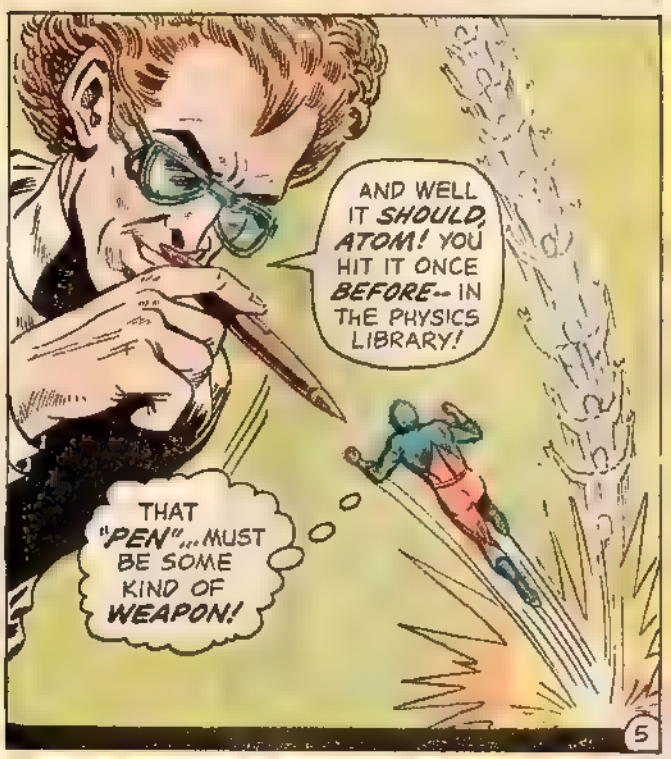
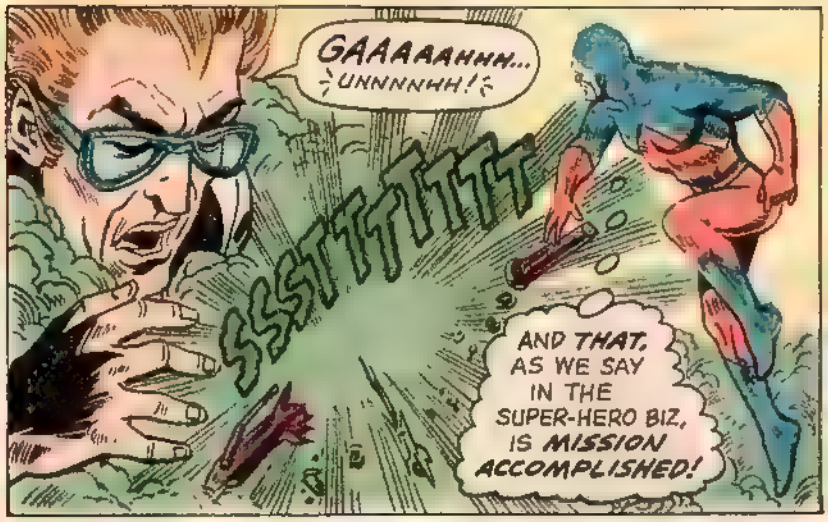
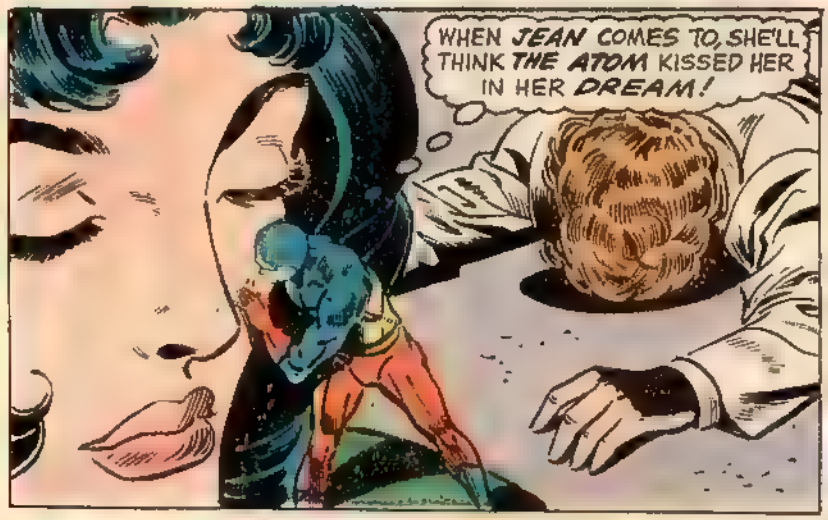
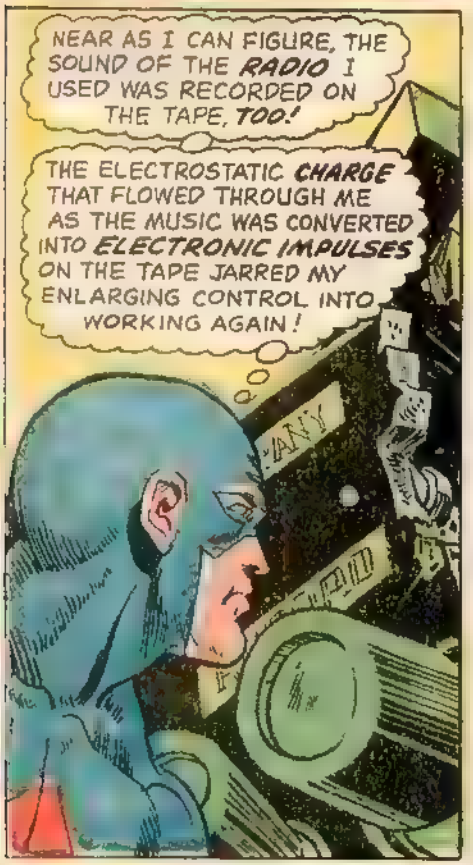
...1... ZERO...
ATOM!?
YOU COUNT BEAUTIFULLY, MISTER!
IT'LL COME IN REAL HANDY WHEN YOU'RE COUNTING YOUR YEARS IN THE PEN!
KRAKK

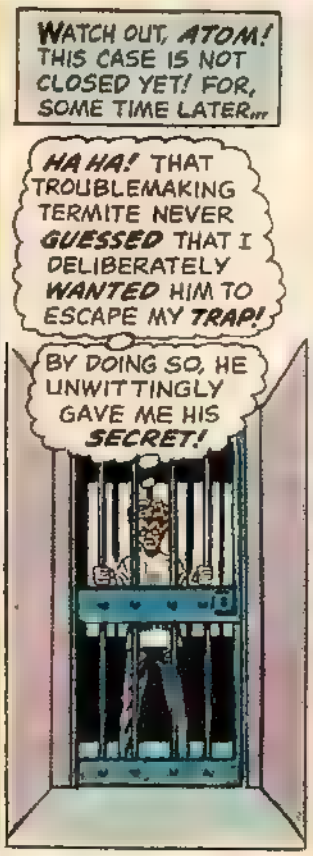

HE'S PROFESSOR MYLES ADRIAN! MUSTN'T LET ON I RECOGNIZE HIM...
I KNOW THIS IS AN ODD THING TO SAY TO A STRANGER, BUT--
YOUR FACE FEELS FAMILIAR!

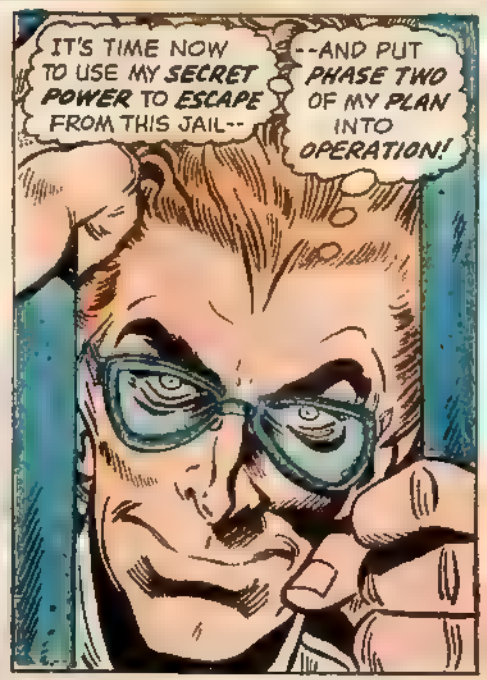

AND WELL IT SHOULD, ATOM! YOU HIT IT ONCE BEFORE-- IN THE PHYSICS LIBRARY!
THAT "PEN"... MUST BE SOME KIND OF WEAPON!











SECRET POWER? PHASE TWO? IS THERE MORE TO THIS ADRIAN CHARACTER THAN HAS BEEN REVEALED SO FAR? CRYPTIC QUESTIONS WHICH GET ACTION—PLUS ANSWERS IN THE NEXT ISSUE-- ON SALE THE LAST WEEK IN JUNE!

Dear J.S. and E.N.B.:

Where, oh, where is the **Superman** of the '70's? Where is the man burdened with powers of the gods? Where is the tormented super-doer, unable to discern a justifiable medium between his own beliefs and disbeliefs? Where is he?

Gone for good, I hope. After a trial run, the relevant **Superman** of the '70's proved quite boring. Boy, am I glad to have the **Superman** of the '60's back again!

"The Krypton Connection" (**Action #434**) was nothing if not in the old style. The cover was great . . . exactly like something that would have appeared on a cover of about ten years ago. And, for that reason, you will either love it or hate it. I loved it!

Cary Bates is one of the new breed of writers who seems to enjoy bringing back old villains (this issue, **Dr. Xadu** and **Zeda** from **Superboy #100** . . . tell me that's not old!), and I am one of a new breed of readers who loves reading about them. The story was great . . . **Clark's** toothache was handled amusingly, and **Lois Lane** was in character. Also good, the Swan-Colletta art, **Clark's** glee at his own fan club, **Jimmy Olsen's** reappearance in the green coat, checkered pants and legendary bow-tie (keep him in them), and lastly, the final page of the story . . . a perfect laugh-getter and a perfect cliff-hanger.

Although **Green Arrow** is definitely a '70's hero, it's in looks only. "Zatanna's Double-Identity" was the best back-up feature I've read since the **Elongated Man** ran in **Detective Comics** in the '60's. I love the way GA starts out every story with his own introduction, and I also like his personal narration as the story progresses. The **Zatanna**-induced confusions and jealousy were handled well. **Miss Z** never looked better than under the pencils and pens of Dillin and McLaughlin. She is one of my favorite characters, certainly the most fun. Which is why she fit right into the **Green Arrow** slot. Seeing Zatanna act and fight like **Black Canary** was amusing, and page 5's "**Hi, Zatanna,**" "Hello, **Green Arrow**" was priceless (as was the totally unbelievable "Eb Flow" deal).

To end on a confused note: in the February issue of **Money** magazine, in the article "The Reputation Merchants," **Clark Kent's** credit report is explored, and his wife's name is given as **Lois.** This is either conclusive evidence that we live on **Earth-2** (home of the **JSA** and a happily married **Clark** and **Lois**), or you'd better tell **Superman** that **Lois** has been playing with his computers while visiting his Fortress.

Bob Rodi, Oak Brook, Ill.

(The credit report may be from *Earth-2*, for all we know. You see, we don't live on *Earth-1* or *Earth-2!* As revealed in a recent *Flash* story, we're on another Earth—call it *Earth-Zero*—where the heroes of both those Earths are only comic magazine characters!—*E.N.B.*)

Dear Editor and Mr. Bridwell:

Green Arrow is not an easy character to write about, and it's doubtful that anyone, with the possible exception of Denny O'Neil, has ever captured his essence as well as Elliot SIMaggin has. ESIM still has trouble with **Superman** and **Robin**, but in his seven (is that all?) abbreviated **GA** stories, he's proved his complete appropriateness for the first feature he ever scripted.

His latest, "Zatanna's Double-Identity," actually read more like an **Elongated Man** piece than anything else, but that is often one of the most successful formats for such a short story! In this one, the unbelievable occurrence was completely rationalized under the established scientific/supernatural laws of **Earth-One**, which is the real measure of success of such a tale. (And let me reassure Elliot that "Eb Flow"—admittedly an **Arrow**-contrived pseudonym—was far less contrived than the real "Rae P. Pancil" of several years ago.)

I must object to the last page, though. **Black Canary** is a quiet, mature woman, a necessary check and contrast to the ebullient, hot-tempered **Green Arrow.** She does not go around kicking in doors out of sheer jealousy! I'll forgive Mr. Maggin this time, Keeping in mind his regular "feel" for both characters and their relationship in past stories.

I still insist that Cary Bates remains the definitive writer for **Superman.** Vince Colletta is not the best inker for Swan—but I won't complain. And I always thought **Dr. Xadu's** wife was named **Erndine**, not **Zeda**. . .

But it was a good story, and that's **all** that counts!

Richard Morrissey, Framingham, Mass.

(True, *Zeda* was called *Erndine* in her first appearance. But you know these criminals—always plenty of aliases!—*E.N.B.*)

Dear Nelson:

Cary Bates has added yet another dimension to **Superman's** personality. That of everyday **pain.** All of us, at one time or another, experience a toothache or a headache or swollen arches or even an annoying ingrown. But **Superman** never had this problem and therefore never learned to cope. Oh, sure, some fans will say, "Are you crazy? Look at the times he's been almost zapped into painful oblivion!" To which I reply, He was always in battle—at least somewhat aware of what to expect. Usually, in a fight, you are psyched for the pain. You begin to adapt and therefore ignore the pain. In the event of a surprise attack, you feel as much shock of surprise as pain, and in time you learn to cope with it. But this time it was just enough to nag and hurt and throb—and it was so natural to those around him, he didn't bother to expect a trap. Brilliant planning on the part of Cary Bates.

Steve Clement, Pawtucket, R.I.

(Now you'll have to excuse me, but I must end this column. I have this dull, nagging pain . . .—*E.N.B.*)

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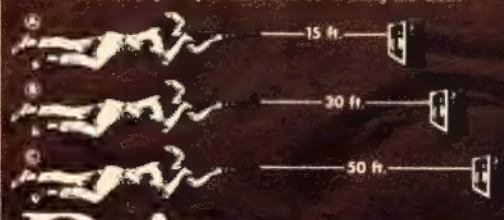

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